Foreign Technical collaborations and franchise pacts

1258. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases of foreign technical collaborations and franchise pacts as recommended by Project Approval Board (PAB) during the last one year;

(b) the number of Technical Collaboration Agreements (TCA) which were approved during the above period;

(c) whether some trade mark agreements between Indian subsidiaries and foreign companies were also approved for fuel injection systems for petrol engines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Since January, 2003, a total of 172 cases of Foreign Technical Collaboration Agreements including Franchise agreements have been recommended by the Project Approval Board (PAB). The major sectors of such foreign technical collaborations and franchise agreements are automobiles (including auto ancillaries), electrical equipments (including software & electronics), chemicals, oil refineries, hotel & tourism industry and miscellaneous mechanical & engineering industries. All the cases recommended by the PAB have been approved by the Government.

(c) and (d) A trade mark agreement between M/s. Robert Bosch GmbH, Germany and their Indian subsidiary M/s. Robert Bosch India Limited was approved for "Fuel Injection systems and parts thereof for Petrol Engines for Motor Vehicles" on payment of Royalty @ 1% on internal sales, subject to taxes, without any restriction on the duration of royalty payment.

Dispute between tea growers and factories

1259. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long standing dispute between the green leaf growers and bought leaf factories of the tea industry has been resolved;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any initiative to thrash out a price sharing formula on the lines of Srilankan industry practices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) The Indian tea industry is at present facing a situation where the continuous fall in prices of tea, coupled with high cost of production, has adversely affected the economy of the tea plantations and small growers of tea are also getting low prices for their green leaf. The small growers feel that they do not get a reasonable price for their green leaf, while the bought leaf factories are of the view that the quality of green leaf supplied by the small grower needs to be upgraded in order to get better prices.

(b) and (c) In order to provide for a reasonable return to the small growers for the green leaf supplied by them to the factories, a provision has been incorporated in the Tea Marketing Control Order 2003 for fixing a price sharing formula between the manufacturers and the small tea growers as is being done in Sri Lanka. Tea Board had commissioned a study through the Institute of Cost & Works Accountants of India (ICWAI) to ascertain the cost of production of green leaves in small growers' holdings as well as the manufacturing cost of tea. Based on the findings of the ICWAI, Tea Board has proposed a price sharing formula.

Import of areca

1260. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of areca imported during 2001, 2002 and 2003 so far and the quantum of areca produced in the country during these years;

(b) whether important of areca has resulted in steep fall in the prices of areca in the country;

(c) whether any support price of areca has been fixed to reduce losses of areca growers of the country; and